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6 November 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: CS SENIOR SEMINAR -- Interview with [] 25X1A
(6 November 1968)

25X1A

1. [] Chief/CA Staff, expressed a very positive attitude toward the Seminar, but noted that he thought it would be difficult to sustain such a Seminar over a period of time. He meant that in the course of time the Seminar would have taken up the ten or twelve major problems of the Clandestine Services. He also said that he thought it would be imperative to have a very senior Seminar chairman or coordinator. He suggested that for the pilot running the DDP designate the Seminar participants.

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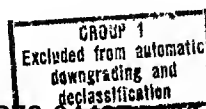
2. [] spoke very highly of the COS Seminar which he attended some years ago. He thought that the course's relevancy and the consequent high motivation of the participants were largely responsible for making it so successful. He wondered whether the same degree of relevancy would be felt in regard to the Senior Seminar. I pointed out that the Seminar being proposed was to be a true seminar, namely, exploration by highly experienced officers of problems to which ready answers are not available. Presumably, I added, senior officers would be interested in exchanging experience and, as one Division Chief had put it, in plowing back cumulative wisdom into the CS. [] agreed this was a good concept. In this connection he said that he thought that State's Senior Seminar in Foreign Policy was excellent and the best advanced training of its kind.

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3. [] strongly recommended that officers be assigned to do advanced research on the topics to be discussed.

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4. Despite previous correspondence regarding the Seminar, [] said that he had not had time to really think about identifying the vital problems which should be discussed. However, he was anxious to do so and suggested we keep in touch informally in order to exchange further ideas.

[]

25X1A

Coordinator,
CS SENIOR SEMINAR

Addendum

The interview reported above began with a prepared, brief exposition of the origin and nature of the CS Senior Seminar proposal, the modifications which resulted from the written responses to the draft proposal (not prepared by OTR), and a request for further comments and, particularly, identification of "vital, current CS problems."

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